Visit of Iranian Delegation

2193. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Iranian delegation headed by the Senior Deputy Minister of Commerce had visited India in the recent past;

(b) if so, the deatils thereof with objectives;

(c) whether some trade agreements have been signed between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has benefited with such visits in any way; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A nine member Iranian delegation headed by Dr. H.N. Shirazi, Senior Deputy Minister (Commerce) visited India during 17th to 24th November, 1995, with the objectives of exploring possibilities of purchasing rice, wheat, sugar, spices, writing paper, rubber tyres etc. from India.

(c) and (d) No Government to Government trade has been signed by the Iranian delegation. However, a contract for supply of 1,00,000 tonnes Indian wheat was signed between the Project & Equipment Corporation of India Ltd., (PEC) and Government Trading Corporation of Iran.-

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Apart from contract signed for 1,00,000 tonnes of wheat, the visit is likely to open avenues for export of other items form India to Iran.

Policy for Purchase of Urea for PSUs

2194. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any policy or criteria to purchase urea for public sector undertakings

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that M.M.T.C. and other PSUs have arrived at some agreement with international companies of Public Sector on "B.O.B." basis recently';

(d) if so, the details thereof separately;

(e) whether different policies and criteria are adopted by the different undertakings;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Import of urea is canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC). However, National Fertilizers Limited, (NFL) Pyrites Potash and Chemicals Limited (PPCL), State Trading Corporation of India Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL) have also been authorised to import urea during 1995-96 as per the standard terms and conditions laid down by the Deptt, of Fertilizers.

(c) and (d) MMTC and other PSUs import urea both on FOB and C&F basis after entering into Agreements with the International Companies-Suppliers.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Policy For Import of Urea

2195. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to import of urea;

(b) what are the concerned agencies importing urea at present;